required to amend the Patents Act, 1970 by 31 December, 1999, in respect of scope of patentable inventions, providing for exclusions from patentability, providing a uniform term of patent protection of 20 years, alignment of compulsory licensing provisions, etc.

Government has maintained a close interface with individuals organisations and interest groups concerned and has also organised a series of Interactive Sessions on 'Approaches to the Indian Patent Law' in different cities of country between 28 June, 1999 to 9 August, 1999.

Publication of Educational Books by US based Company

1846. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal of US based company has been cleared for setting up 100 per cent owned publishing firm for educational books in India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Indian companies were unable to produce good educational books; and

(d) how a foreign firm can produce appropriate educational material for our country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In accordance with the existing policy, a proposal of US based company for setting up a wholly owned subsidiary to undertake the business of publishing and distributing educational and reference books and educational materials, subject to the condition that the company would not undertake any activity prohibited under the Print-media Policy of 1955, has been cleared on the basis of recommendations of the Administrative Ministry i.e. Department of Secondary and Higher Education.

Setting up of Cement Industry

1847. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up some cement industry in the country during Ninth Plan;